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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/788,420	02/21/2001	Oh Nam Kwon	8733,388.00	5851
30827 7590 11/12/2009 MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP 1900 K STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006				
EXAMINER				
RUDE, TIMOTHY L				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2871				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
11/12/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/788,420

Applicant(s)

KWON ET AL.

Examiner

TIMOTHY RUDE

Art Unit

2871

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/02)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims and Claim Objections

Claim 1 is amended.

Applicant's amendment is considered to NOT depart from the constructively elected species, lest Applicant be non-responsive. Therefore, Applicant's amendment of "first conductive layers" to read - - a first conductive layer and a pad layer - - are considered to describe the same structure, i.e., a first conductive layer (12A) and a pad layer (14A) which are of the same conductive layer of APA [0008] which reads on Applicant's newly added "wherein the first conductive layer and the pad layer are a single layer (patterned from the same single metal layer per [0008]).

However, Applicant presently limits both contact holes exposing the pad layer which is considered incorrect. Please note that Applicant's original disclosure did not define a "pad layer", so Examiner logically considers "pad layer" to be the portion of the first conductive layer that is located at the pad, e.g., first conductive layer portion (14A) at gate pad, Figure 1E.

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: Applicant presently limits both contact holes exposing the pad layer which is considered incorrect.

Appropriate correction is required.

Due to the complexity of the structure claimed and the multiple amendments to same, examiner recommends at least a telephone interview to “map” what structure in the drawings is being referenced by Applicant’s present claim limitations. Examiner believes there may be unwanted errors in the present claim limitations. Examiner also believes there may be unwanted errors in the prior claim limitations. Examiner considered the prior claim limitations definite (and the present claim limitations incorrect in part), but if Applicant disagrees with Examiners interpretations, there may be indefiniteness problems.

Examiner has made every effort to fully examine the merits of Applicant’s claims within the context of the constructively elected species. However, due to apparent errors in claim limitations, the rejections cannot match the present claim limitation errors; the rejections match the structure of the constructively elected species. Also, examiner maintains the structure of Applicant’s device as shown in Applicant’s Figure 3E is properly rejected by the applied prior art per rejections below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-9 and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (APA).

As to claims 1, 8-9, and 28, APA discloses a liquid crystal display (LCD) device (Fig. 1E) having a substrate (10), a first conductive layer (12A with no 12B; 12B is optional per Applicant's specification, page 9, per amendment filed 08 May 2007) and a pad layer (14A) on the substrate, wherein the pad layer is the portion of the first conductive layer that is formed at a pad region; a first insulating layer (16) on the substrate, the first conductive layer and the pad layer, the first insulating layer having a contact hole (above 14A) exposing a portion of the pad layer; (allowing electrical connection to 14A via contact hole above 14A); a semiconductor layer (18) on the first insulating layer; second conductive layers (20) on the semiconductor layer, third conductive layers, (22A and 24A), on the second conductive layers, a second insulating layer (26) on the third conductive layers, the second insulating layer having a first contact hole exposing a portion of the third conductive layers (contact hole for pixel electrode) and a second contact hole (hole for 30) exposing the portion of the pad layer exposed by the first insulating layer, a fourth conductive layer (28) on the second insulating layer and electrically contacting a portion of the third conductive layers; a fifth conductive layer (30) on the second insulating layer and electrically contacting the first conductive layers through the second contact hole; and a sixth conductive layers, (24B and 14B), between and in contact with both the exposed portion of the third conductive layers (24A) and the fourth conductive layer, (28), and

between and in contact with both the pad layer, (14A), and the fifth conductive layer, (30),

wherein the sixth conductive layers are formed in the first contact hole and in the contact hole of the first insulating layer [sixth layers 24B and 14B exist at the bottoms of (Applicant's formed in) the contact holes], and wherein the first conductive layer and the pad layer are a single layer [formed from the same metal layer as shown in Applicant's Figure 1E (elements 12A and 14A) and Figure 3E (corresponding elements 34 and 36)].

Please note, this is a device claim whereby "formed in" is considered to limit where structure is as opposed to how it got there. Also, something that is at the bottom of a hole is reasonably considered to be in the hole.

APA does not explicitly disclose an embodiment wherein the sixth conductive layers are exclusively and entirely contained at the bottoms of the first contact hole and the bottom of the contact hole of the first insulating layer.

Tagusa teaches at Figure 5 an embodiment wherein such a metal layer, 41, may be deposited such that it is exclusively and entirely contained at the bottom of a contact hole, 26b, as an art recognized configuration suitable for the intended purpose of improving adhesion of the overlying conductive layer with the underlying conductive layer [col. 12, lines 4-34] which would improve yield and reliability [MPEP 2144.07].

Figure 1E (elements 12A and 14A) to Applicant's Figure 3E (to corresponding elements 34 and 36).

As to claims 2-3, APA discloses an LCD device as recited above where the first conductive layers include aluminum metal (Specification page 3, lines 1-4 and 18-23).

As to claim 4, APA discloses an LCD device as recited above where the second conductive layers (20) include an impurity-doped semiconductor (Specification page 3, lines 4-7).

As to claims 5-6, APA discloses an LCD device as recited above where the third conductive layers have first (22A) and second (24A) parts that include metal and in between the first and second parts is where the semiconductor is etched (Specification page 3, lines 10-12 and page 4, lines 1-4).

As to claim 7, APA discloses an LCD device as recited above where the fourth conductive layer includes a transparent electrode (Specification page 3, lines 14-17).

As to claim 27, APA discloses the device according to claim 1, wherein the first conductive layers are formed of a single metal, 12A and 14A, and the third conductive layers are formed of a single metal, 22A and 24A. Please also note, APA also teaches

these structures may optionally be a single metal, an alloy, or a multi-layered structure, Specification, pages 3 and 4, as amended.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 18 June 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's ONLY substantive arguments are as follows:

(1) Regarding base claim 1, applied prior art does not disclose presently added limitations.

(2) Dependent claims are allowable because they directly or indirectly depend from an allowable base claim.

Examiner's responses to Applicant's ONLY arguments are as follows:

(1) It is respectfully pointed out that Applicant's amendments are considered to read on the elected species, lest Applicant be non-responsive. As such, Applicant's amendment is considered to be a re-labeling of previously and presently rejected structure.

APA teaches that items 12, 14, 22, and 24, in Applicant's prior art Figure 1E may be single or double layer; both are known and used in the prior art [specification pages 2-4].

Tagusa teaches that such a metal layer, 41, may be deposited such that it is exclusively and entirely contained at the bottom of a contact hole, 26b, as an art

recognized configuration suitable for the intended purpose of improving adhesion of the overlying conductive layer with the underlying conductive layer [col. 12, lines 4-34, and Figure 5] which would improve yield and reliability [MPEP 2144.07], per rejections above.

Examiner maintains Applicant's constructively elected species is rendered obvious by APA in view of Tagusa per rejections above.

Applicant is encouraged to have at least a telephone interview to discuss prior and present claim limitation issues.

(2) It is respectfully pointed out that in so far as Applicant has not argued rejection(s) of the limitations of dependent claim(s), Applicant has acquiesced said rejection(s).

Any references cited but not applied are relevant to the instant Application.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated any new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TIMOTHY RUDE whose telephone number is (571)272-2301. The examiner can normally be reached on Increased Flex Time Program.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nelms C. David can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/TIMOTHY RUDE/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2871